

# MVA Minnreg Veterans Association September 2023



## President's Message

It looks like Fall is trying to push summer aside and cool things off. Morning walks with the dogs are already more comfortable. For many folks, this is the best time of the year. Leaves displaying their brilliant colors (maybe not right around here!) football season is in full swing, baseball is heading to the playoffs, hockey starts soon and we are heading into the glorious holiday season. While none of us is guaranteed tomorrow, we can all enjoy each day and the joy it brings all along the way.

When I was growing up in Ohio, the holiday season was the best time of the year by far. Not just because of the anxious anticipation of Christmas gifts, but rather the family traditions that remain fond memories even today. And I will bet that most of you have similar memories of this holiday season and what it meant to you way back in the day.

For our Christmas party this year (I know it's still months away) wouldn't it be great to share some of those memories with your MVA peeps? I will be presenting some of these memories at the party, so you don't have to worry about speaking in public (unless you want to!) Here's the plan - we will post a form on the MVA website for you to submit your favorite holiday memory(ies). Attach photos if you have them. You can provide your name or you can do it anonymously. Either way, we will share your memories in the newsletter and at the Christmas party. Should be great fun.

At the September luncheon, we heard from Michelle Walag of Ready for Life, a local non-profit that provides various services to children aging out of the foster care system. MVA presented the organization with a \$6,000 contribution to support their educational, employment and lifelong support services.

We also heard from Katie Sanders, PolitiFact managing editor, bringing us up to date on their system of fact-checking political statements. She provided us with some timely advice for doing some fact checking of our own as we approach the 2024 presidential election cycle.

Overall, it was a great afternoon filled with great fun, fellowship and food. In October, we will be hearing from our Community VP, Gloria Hill, as she sums up our community efforts in 2023.





# 2024 MVA Leadership Elections



Unlike the upcoming national elections, our MVA elections should proceed with little drama and no name calling. Since the organization accepted the proposed organizational by-laws at the September luncheon, the structure of the MVA Board of Directors will change. The 5 member advisory council has been eliminated moving forward. The new board will consist of 9 members directly elected by the current MVA membership. All directors will be elected to serve two year terms. In this transition year, we have 3 existing Directors carrying over for the second year of their term - Al Shields, Tom Conner and Terry Miller. So in November, we will elect 6 new directors to fill out the board - two elected to serve a one-year term and four elected to serve the full two-year term. The top 4 vote getters will serve the four-year term. The others will serve a one-year term. Once in place, the Chair and Vice Chair will be chosen by the Board.

All officer positions are elected each year. Following is a list of MVA officer positions:

- President** - Overall responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization
- Executive Vice President** - second in command
- Recording Secretary** - maintains official organizational records
- Vice President Community Service** - oversees all community outreach initiatives and budget
- Vice President Member Activities** - schedules and plans member events
- Office Manager** - ensures the smooth operation of the MVA office

All leadership nominations must be in by October 14. All nominees must be current active MVA members. Members may nominate any active MVA member. Members may nominate themselves. Nominations must be made by active MVA members using the online form:

<https://www.jotform.com/build/232284767811159>

Once nominations are closed, Vivian O'Dell, the current Recording Secretary will reach out to each nominee to determine that they are willing to serve if elected. All qualified candidates will have an opportunity to present themselves to the membership at the monthly luncheon on October 18. Ballots will be prepared and distributed to active MVA members at the November 15 luncheon. Voting will be done at that time and winners will be announced at that meeting.

All elected terms begin on January 1, 2024.







# Upcoming Events Information



We want to honor the commitment and memory of the Ron Rasmussen who led the MVA participation in the Salvation Army bell ringers at Christmas time. Clive and Carol Bailey have graciously agreed to carry on that legacy moving forward. The details have been set, and the Baileys need volunteers to work two-hour shifts. The 2023 information is below:

**Location:** Publix-Gulf To Bay | 525 S Belcher Rd | Clearwater FL| 33764  
(Gulf-to-Bay Plaza)  
**Date:** December 07, 2023  
**Time:** 10:00AM- 8:00PM

We will have sign-up sheets at the October and November luncheons. Let's keep the memory of Ron alive as we continue on with his holiday legacy.



Marty Martinez, Brian Martinez, Bill Axley, Al Shields

The Fall MVA Golf Scramble is set for Thursday, November 9 at Lake Seminole Country Club in Seminole. Teams of four will compete in the best ball event, followed by a nice dinner and awards for the day's play.

The winners from the April tournament (pictured at left) are looking to defend their titles - and invite you to join them for an afternoon of fun on the beautiful links at Seminole Lake.



Jane Gonser, Pat Keegan, Betty Held, Lorraine Wert

Participants will gather at 3:30 and tee off at 4 pm. All active MVA members are eligible to play at no cost. The visitor (ringer) fee is \$25.

These golf tournaments have been a fixture of the MVA for many, many years. Teams of four and individuals looking for a team can register online: <https://form.jotform.com/232325960967162>

**Monthly Socials**  
**October 4**  
**November 1**  
**December 6**  
All held at Fat Cat Tavern in Largo. Doors open at 4

**Monthly Luncheons**  
**October 18**  
**November 15**  
All held at Banquet Masters in Largo. Doors open at 11 am

**Member Events**  
**October 21 - Wilson Playhouse**  
**November 9 - golf tourney**  
**December 7 - Salvation Army bells**  
**December 20 - Christmas party**





# First Wednesday Social September 6, 2023



These events just keep getting better and better as evidenced by the growing number of MVA members who are attending each month. We invade the Fat Cat Tavern in Largo every first Wednesday at 4 pm for a few hours of fun, fellowship, food and prizes. Host Al Shields always makes everyone feel right at home.



*Shirley Murphy, Howard Howe*



*Fran & Bob Kay*



*Larry Trefz, Al Parisi, Jeff Ring*



*Steve & Margaret Simmons*



*Gayle Smith, John Voissem*



*Betty Held, Terry Mickiewicz*



*Jerry Dangler, Billy Adkins*



*Al & Andrea Shields*



*Mary & Richard Reffelt*



*Shirley Murphy, Shirley Bowers*



*Marilyn Ruga, Shirley Bowers*



*Thom Dupper, Wendy Hugar*





# First Wednesday Social September 6, 2023



*Carl Baum, Betty Held*



*John & Carol Janney*



*Teri & Michael Godfrey*



*Jim Acosta, Al Shields*



*Bea & Tom Conner*



*Jerry Dangler, Howard Howe*



*Wendy Hugar, Al Shields*



*Larry & Masako Shannon*



*Natalie & Billy Adkins*



*Natalie Adkins*



*Artie Martin*



*Howard Howe*



*Dennis Willis*



*Jane Willis*

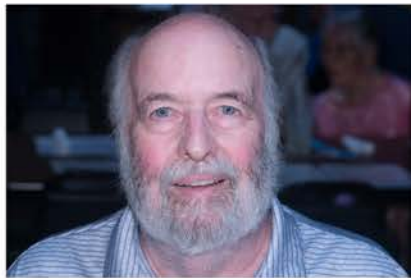




# First Wednesday Social September 6, 2023



*Marge Lynch*



*George Suther*



*Patti Merchand*



*Scott Webber*



*Richard & Helen Malzahn*



*Gloria Whitfield*



*Stephanie Puffer*



*Jerry & Karyn Klos*



*Jack Freeman*



*Bob Lovejoy?*



*Phyllis Howard*



*Clive Bailey*



*Jean Miller*

**New MVA Phone # 727.499.8271**  
We have installed a phone in the MVA office for your convenience. The phone will not be answered live. Rather, audio transcriptions of the call will be forwarded to [info@minnregs.com](mailto:info@minnregs.com) for follow-up.







# First Wednesday Social September 6, 2023



*Karyn Klos*



*Jerry Dangler*



*Vivian O'Dell*



*Jeff Ring*



*Loni Wellington*



*Larry Harper*



*Leslie Tuck*







# First Wednesday Social September 6, 2023



*Terry Mickiewicz*



*Jack Ptacek*



*Pat Keegan*



*Jim Acosta*



*Lorraine Wert*



*Glenn Nicholson*



*Bonnie Williams*



*Dave Donnelly*



*Carol Bailey*



*Al Parisi*



*Helen Malzahn*



*Jim McCormick*



*Jo Ketring*



*Richard Reffelt*



*Genevieve Urbanski*





# Monthly Luncheon September 20, 2023



It was ship ahoy as MVA members went on a cruise to nowhere at the September 20 luncheon. 88 members gathered to hear presentations from Ready for Life and Politifact, share conversations, win prizes and have a great meal.



*Brian Martinez, Wendy Hugar*



*Tom & Bea Conner*



*Jane and Dennis Willis*



*Mary & Richard Refelt*



*Vivian O'Dell, Shirley Bowers*



*Patty Jo Clayton, Wendy Hugar*



*Margaret & Steve Simmons*



*Thom & Deb Dupper*



*Jacqueline Morgan*



*John & Shirley Bowers*



*Gayle Smith, John Voissem*



*Brian Martinez*





# Monthly Luncheon September 20, 2023



*Patty Jo Clayton*



*Hendrik Gelderloos*



*Gloria Hill*



*Gloria Whitfield*



*DC Stevenson*



*Wendy Hugar*



*Dave Donnelly*



*Bonnie Williams*



*Howard Howe, Shirley Murphy,  
Emilie & Ben Carter*



*Jo Ketring, John Schiffgen, Loni Wellington*



*Marge Lynch, Marilyn Ruga,  
Lorraine Wert, Pat Keegan*



*Sue & Roger Ertsgaard*





# Wine Tasting



And a good time was had by all! 21 MVA members met at Total Wines & More on Park Street on September 21 for the first MVA wine tasting event. Our host, Doug, did an outstanding job informing the group all about California wines. The group was able to sample a few varieties of both red and white wines while hearing about the vineyards, climate, fermentation process, grape types and many more interesting aspects of a nice glass of wine.



*Al & Andrea Shields, Brian Martinez, Shirley Murphy*



*Patty Jo Clayton, Terri Beamer*



*Mary Reffelt, Shirley Murphy, Pat Keegan, Bea & Tom Conner*







# Holiday Traditions



For our December MVA Newsletter, we want to publish your most treasured holiday traditions. Did you cut your own Christmas tree? Did you open one present on Christmas Eve? What was your family's traditional Christmas dinner? What was the best Christmas present you ever received? What holiday traditions have you passed on to your children and grandchildren? Doesn't have to be long. We don't have to use your name - you can submit yours anonymously if you like. But if you do have a sentimental, humorous or unusual tradition, please share it with all of us. Better yet, if you have a photo of the tradition, dust it off and send that along with your memory.

Let's fill up the newsletter with your best memories of holiday joy around your house. Please use the online form and submit your memory by November 10.

<https://form.jotform.com/232696491056060>







# Happy Birthday from MVA!



- |                              |                                |                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10-01 Kathleen Miller        | 10-11 Cletus Turley            | 10-21 Matthew Muskovac           |
| 10-02 Dickie Glover          | 10-11 Gloria Whitfield         | 10-21 Larry Romeo                |
| 10-02 Byron Hall             | 10-12 Fred Bloom               | 10-21 Robert Smith               |
| 10-02 Robert Harvey          | 10-12 Joan Bujnoski            | 10-21 Leslie Tuck                |
| 10-02 Richard (Dick) Malzahn | 10-12 Sharon Griessel          | 10-22 Mary Gillmore              |
| 10-02 Bobby Matteson         | 10-12 Jerry McCollum           | 10-22 Suzanne (Sue) Hirsch       |
| 10-02 Patricia Roberts       | 10-12 Elizabeth Miller         | 10-22 Virginia Kaszer            |
| 10-02 William Verville       | 10-12 Marilyn Urban            | 10-22 Robert (Bob) Lovejoy       |
| 10-02 George Zajack          | 10-13 David (Dave) Cox         | 10-22 Chris O'Hare               |
| 10-03 James (Jim) Acker      | 10-13 Carolynne Gibson         | 10-22 Sharon Witthuhn            |
| 10-03 William Busler         | 10-13 Beverly Mason            | 10-23 Christine (Cargo) Andresen |
| 10-03 Ernest Garvie          | 10-13 Ernestine Petryszak      | 10-23 Daniel (Dan) Bordeaux      |
| 10-03 Marjorie Gates         | 10-13 Pam Richards             | 10-23 Betty Bordeaux             |
| 10-03 Bert Hadley            | 10-13 Edna Zunker              | 10-23 Gwen Campbell              |
| 10-03 Bonnie Kiernan         | 10-14 Elizabeth (Terri) Knight | 10-23 Violet (Vi) Swift          |
| 10-03 Kay Maize              | 10-14 Merle Lundeen            | 10-24 Robert Foley               |
| 10-04 Randall Egli           | 10-14 Judith Schafer           | 10-24 Lon Grider                 |
| 10-04 Geraldine Given        | 10-14 Lonnie Wollitz           | 10-24 George Harley              |
| 10-04 Lois Norman            | 10-15 Jacqueline Grzegorzcyk   | 10-24 James (Jim) Janowski       |
| 10-04 Mary Jo Routzahn       | 10-15 Gerald Kraus             | 10-24 Jean Miller                |
| 10-04 Wayland Stewart        | 10-15 Alan (Al) Shields        | 10-24 Kendall Yoder              |
| 10-05 Marilyn Fritz          | 10-15 Bruce Walling            | 10-25 Connie Bertuglia           |
| 10-05 Molly Gable            | 10-15 Florence Yager           | 10-25 Carol Ertsgaard            |
| 10-05 Althea Patterson       | 10-15 Patricia Young           | 10-25 Wendy Hugar                |
| 10-05 Lee Patterson          | 10-16 Karen DeFelix            | 10-26 Mary Ewers                 |
| 10-06 Candace (Candy) Abreu  | 10-16 Charles Fulmer           | 10-26 Jeanne Green               |
| 10-06 Janet Carnahan         | 10-16 Beverly Johnson          | 10-26 Frederick Groover          |
| 10-06 Louisa Crawford        | 10-16 Debbie Newland           | 10-26 Carol Taylor               |
| 10-06 Bernice McDonald       | 10-16 Patsy Reeve              | 10-26 Robert (Casey) Warren      |
| 10-06 Esther Tsikos          | 10-16 Robert Young             | 10-27 Jeanne Lowe                |
| 10-06 William Woodham        | 10-17 Theresa (Terry) Ash      | 10-27 Neal Martinez              |
| 10-07 Nancy Currens          | 10-17 Lorraine Connell         | 10-27 Thomas Preusser            |
| 10-07 Ruth Hines             | 10-17 Dorothy Gutz             | 10-28 Martha Araujo              |
| 10-07 Mike Kearns            | 10-17 Iris Hogan               | 10-28 Mark Barlow                |
| 10-07 Willene Nichols        | 10-17 Dolores Larivee          | 10-28 Sara Bleattler             |
| 10-07 Cheryl Orr             | 10-17 Jean Schoen              | 10-28 Bryan Hossbach             |
| 10-07 Norma Perry            | 10-17 Thelma Summers           | 10-28 Mary Houser                |
| 10-07 Carol Remelsberger     | 10-17 Urai Welton              | 10-28 Clarie Kelley              |
| 10-07 Robert Sheperd         | 10-17 Lorraine Wert            | 10-28 Marilyn Kueber             |
| 10-07 Dennis Temple          | 10-18 Carol Merrefield         | 10-28 William Simonin            |
| 10-08 Laudelino (Jim) Acosta | 10-18 William Schmitt          | 10-28 Geraldine Soboleski        |
| 10-08 Guy Otto               | 10-19 Elsie Clifton            | 10-28 John Yancey                |
| 10-08 Carole Pagels          | 10-19 George Donaldson         | 10-29 Beverly Cribbs             |
| 10-08 Doris Peters           | 10-19 Harold (Hal) Feininger   | 10-29 Marleen Forslund           |
| 10-08 Beverly Whiteley       | 10-19 John Millen              | 10-30 Ruth Carlin                |
| 10-09 Marilyn Buchanan       | 10-19 Anna Milliken            | 10-30 Larry Harper               |
| 10-09 H. Frost               | 10-19 Leo Voltz                | 10-30 Teresa Kemp                |
| 10-09 Barbara Hall           | 10-20 Barry Blood              | 10-30 Paul Krahrer               |
| 10-09 Denise Parker          | 10-20 Florence Deaton          | 10-30 Anne Mueller               |
| 10-09 Gladys Tennant         | 10-20 Alan Gilbert             | 10-30 Andrew (Andy) Rasmussen    |
| 10-10 Nancy Boatwright       | 10-20 Paul Giordano            | 10-30 Linda Tolliver             |
| 10-10 Miriam Dixon           | 10-20 Cheryl McAvoy            | 10-31 Shirley Deprisco           |
| 10-10 Robert Owens           | 10-20 Alfred (Al) Olsen        | 10-31 Leland (Lee) Walton        |
| 10-11 Sue Benton             | 10-20 Joelle Siwinski          |                                  |
| 10-11 Lois Guay              | 10-20 John (JohnnyG) Voissem   |                                  |
| 10-11 Mary Spinger           | 10-21 Charlie Gray             |                                  |